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Children and Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR CHILD WELFARE

Online resource provides easy access to scientifically tested practices in child welfare

In January 2004, as part of the state's child welfare improvement strategies, the California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) partnered with the Chadwick Center for Children and Families in cooperation with the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center to award a three-year grant to create an evidence-based clearinghouse for child welfare practices in California.

The California Evidence Based Clearinghouse (CEBC) for Child Welfare is a formal online resource for child welfare professionals; researchers; policymakers; staff of public and private organizations and academic institutions; and others who are committed to improving outcomes for children and families. It provides simple, straightforward access to reviews and ratings of evidence-based practices relative to child welfare. The CEBC reduces the user's need to conduct extensive literature searches, review extensive literature, or comprehend and evaluate research methodology.

The CEBC is a key tool for identifying, selecting, and implementing evidence-based child welfare practices that will improve child safety, increase permanency, increase family and community stability, and promote child and family well-being. The statewide clearinghouse is guided by two main bodies:

- A statewide Advisory Committee comprised of state and local child welfare leaders, supporting organizations, and nationally respected authorities on child welfare
- A national Scientific Panel comprised of five core members who are nationally recognized as leaders in child welfare research and practice

The CEBC officially launched in June 2006. As of August 31, 2009, there have been more than 109,657 site visits. Eighty-five percent of the visitors are from the United States, with 37 percent from California cities. International visitors from 175 different countries have visited the web site. The web site lists 20 topical areas of child welfare (totaling 140 programs), and more areas are in the process of being added. CEBC workshop presentations have been held for public child welfare administrators and supervisors concerning the past, present, and future direction of evidence-based practices in child welfare. The CEBC has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally as a vital resource for those who serve children and families. For more information, please visit the CEBC Web site at www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org/ or at www.cebc4cw.org.